AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph found on page 6, lines 2-23 as follows:

The present invention can be implemented in any network with multiple servers and a plurality of endpoints; and is particularly advantageous for vast networks having hundreds of thousands of endpoints and links there between. Fig. 1 provides a schematic illustration of a network for implementing the present invention. Among the plurality of servers, 101a-101n as illustrated, at least one of the servers, 101a in Fig. 1, which already has some of the distributed kernel services (DKS) is designated as one of the control servers for the purposes of implementing the invention. A network has many endpoints, with endpoint being defined, for example, as one Network Interface Card (NIC) with one MAC address, IP Address <u>which may be found in one of the servers 101b-101n or other computers 102a-102c</u>. The control server 101a in accordance with the present invention has the components illustrated in Fig. 2, as part of the distributed kernel services, for providing a method including the steps of: defining link speed factors for links in the network topology; using link speed factors to identify slow links; and, defining and implementing application-based responses to detected slow links. The link speed factors may be simply endpoint data such as NIC speed, link data such as link speed, route data for a plurality of links, or some factor which is calculated from the foregoing and other network performance indicators.

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